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Oceans and the law of the sea

The rule of law at the national and international levels

Letter dated 20 January 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Costa Rica reaffirms its communication submitted on 15 July 2013 regarding Nicaragua's submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf and, with respect to Nicaragua's communication MINIC-NU-048-13 of 20 December 2013, would like to state the following.

The delimitation of the continental shelf between Costa Rica and Nicaragua is pending and is in dispute. Areas claimed by Nicaragua in its submission encroach on Costa Rican entitlements. The tripoint that Nicaragua refers to in its communication of 20 December 2013 does not reflect accurately the geographic or legal relationship among Costa Rica, Panama and Colombia, and is wholly unrelated to the outstanding question of the disputed maritime boundary between Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Costa Rica made its position clear during its request to intervene in *Territorial and Maritime Dispute (Nicaragua v. Colombia)*. Nicaragua's continued insistence upon its conflicting and incorrect position reflects the existence of a dispute between the two countries.

Consequently, Costa Rica rejects the claims advanced by Nicaragua in its submission, considers them to be without legal effect, reserves its rights in this regard and refers the Commission to its Rules of Procedure, specifically rule 46 and annex I, governing submissions in case of a dispute between States with opposite or adjacent coasts or in other cases of unresolved land or maritime disputes.

In that regard, I kindly request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 76 (a) and 85. Upon instructions from my Government, I also request that this letter be sent to all relevant organs, bodies and entities of the United Nations, be posted on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and be included in the next Law of the Sea Bulletin.

(*Signed*) Eduardo **Ulibarri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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